

Questionnaire for Solicitors

Enumerator no.: E _____

Sample no. : _____

- 1. On average, how many hours per week did you work on the following legal services in the past six months (in 2005)?**

Litigation related: _____ hours/week
 Non-litigation related: _____ hours/week
 Arbitration/ mediation: _____ hours/week
 Non-chargeable work*: _____ hours/week

 Total: _____ hours/week

*Work that cannot be charged to the clients, including for example administration and professional development.

- 2. Please advise which categories of clients you have represented in the past six months (in 2005) and the estimated proportion of time spent serving each group of clients?**

(Please "tick" in the boxes below. More than one category of clients may be chosen, if applicable)

	Percentage of time spent in 2005					
	0%	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%
a) Criminal						
Large corporations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Small and medium enterprises*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government and public bodies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Private individuals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Civil						
Large corporations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Small and medium enterprises*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government and public bodies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Non-profit-making organisations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Private individuals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

*Manufacturing companies with less than 100 employees or non-manufacturing companies with less than 50 employees.

- 3. Have you taken up any cases in the past six months (in 2005) which were funded by legal aid or the Duty Lawyer Scheme?**

(1) ☐ Yes

(2) ☐ No. The reason(s): _____

4. Please advise the estimated proportion of criminal and civil cases handled by you in the past six months (in 2005), in terms of time spent, by sources of funding.

	Percentage of time spent in 2005			
	Cases funded by Legal Aid	Cases funded by Duty Lawyers	Cases funded by government	Cases funded by clients other than government
Litigation				
Criminal				
Civil				
Non-litigation				
Criminal				
Civil				

5. Please advise the estimated proportion of criminal and civil cases handled by you in the past six months (in 2005), in terms of time spent, by levels of courts.

	Percentage of time spent in 2005				
	Non-litigation	Tribunals	Magistrates Court	District Court	High Court/ Court of Final Appeal
Criminal					
Civil					

6. Please provide information on the estimated proportion of time spent on each category of legal services provided by you in the past six months (in 2005)? (Please "tick" all that apply)

	Percentage of time spent in 2005				
	1-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%
a) Criminal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Civil					
PRC-related matters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Administrative/ constitutional	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Human rights	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Advocacy services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Commercial and company	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shipping	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intellectual property	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Insolvency and bankruptcy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wills and probate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Matrimonial and family	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Discrimination	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Defamation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Employment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Immigration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal injuries	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Professional negligence	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Consumer services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Landlord and tenant	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Land and property	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Building management	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Notarial services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Others, please specify: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

7. Do you take any measures personally to promote legal services of your firm?

(1) ☐ Yes, please describe in general terms the measures taken:

(2) ☐ No. The reasons are:

8. In your experience, what are the factors affecting your choice of barristers?

(Please "tick" in the boxes below. More than one choice may be selected.)

	Very Important (1)	Important (2)	Not very Important (3)	Not Important At All (4)
a) Past experience with barristers	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Recommendation by friends	☐	☐	☐	☐
c) Recommendation by other solicitors	☐	☐	☐	☐
d) Reputation of barristers	☐	☐	☐	☐
e) Experience of barristers	☐	☐	☐	☐
f) Performance records of barristers	☐	☐	☐	☐
g) Location of barrister's chambers	☐	☐	☐	☐
h) Fee level	☐	☐	☐	☐
i) Others, please specify:	☐	☐	☐	☐

9. In your experience, what are the factors affecting your clients' choice of the service of your firm? (Please "tick" in the boxes below. More than one choice may be selected.)

	Very Important (1)	Important (2)	Not very Important (3)	Not Important At All (4)
a) Past experience with solicitors	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Recommendations by friends	☐	☐	☐	☐
c) Referrals by other solicitors	☐	☐	☐	☐
d) Ability to provide one-stop service	☐	☐	☐	☐
e) Reputation of solicitors	☐	☐	☐	☐
f) Reputation of solicitor firms	☐	☐	☐	☐
g) Experience of solicitors	☐	☐	☐	☐
h) Size of solicitor firms	☐	☐	☐	☐
i) Location of solicitor firms	☐	☐	☐	☐
j) Fee level	☐	☐	☐	☐
k) Advertisements	☐	☐	☐	☐
l) Others, please specify:	☐	☐	☐	☐

10. Please advise the proportion of cases in the past six months (in 2005) in which the choice of barristers is based on recommendations of your clients or recommendations of solicitors of your firm.

(1) ☐ Primarily recommendation of your clients _____%

(2) ☐ Primarily recommendation of solicitors of your firm _____%

Total

100%

11. Have you participated in pro bono services in the past six months (in 2005)?

- (1) ☐ Yes, the activities participated were:
(More than one choice may be chosen)
- Average time spent per month**
- (3) ☐ Free Legal Advice Scheme (for civil cases) = ____ hours
- (4) ☐ Bar Free Legal Advice Scheme = ____ hours
- (5) ☐ Free legal advice service organised by NGO = ____ hours
Name(s) of NGO: _____
- (6) ☐ Other free legal advice service to the public = ____ hours
Please specify: _____
- (7) ☐ Community legal education (e.g. seminars/ talks) = ____ hours
- (8) ☐ Honorary legal advisors to NGO = ____ hours
Name(s) of NGO: _____
- (9) ☐ Others, please specify: _____ = ____ hours
- (2) ☐ No. The reasons were: (More than one choice may be chosen)
- (10) ☐ No time
- (11) ☐ No interest
- (12) ☐ Location of service not convenient
- (13) ☐ Others, please specify: _____

12. Please indicate below the hourly rate you charged your clients in the past six months (in 2005)?
(Please “tick” all that apply)

	Hourly rate charged in 2005					
	Below \$1,000	\$1,001-\$2,000	\$2,001-\$3,000	\$3,001-\$5,000	\$5,001-\$7,500	Above \$7,500
a) Criminal						
Litigation						
Legal aid cases	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by government/ public bodies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by business corporations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by private individuals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Non-litigation						
Legal aid cases	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by government/ public bodies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by business corporations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by private individuals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Civil						
Litigation						
Legal aid cases	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by business corporations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by government/ public bodies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by non-profit-making organisations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by private individuals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Hourly rate charged in 2005					
	Below \$1,000	\$1,001- \$2,000	\$2,001- \$3,000	\$3,001- \$5,000	\$5,001- \$7,500	Above \$7,500
Non-litigation						
Legal aid cases	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by business corporations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by government/ public bodies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by non-profit-making organisations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paid by private individuals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

13. Please indicate below changes in hourly rate you charge in 2005 as compared with three years ago (i.e. 2002).

- (1) ☐ Criminal cases:
- (3) ☐ Cases financed by clients in the private sector (please "tick" as appropriate)
- (a) ☐ Increase significantly
- (b) ☐ Increase
- (c) ☐ No change
- (d) ☐ Decrease
- (e) ☐ Decrease significantly
- (2) ☐ Civil cases:
- (4) ☐ Cases financed by clients in the private sector (please "tick" as appropriate)
- (a) ☐ Increase significantly
- (b) ☐ Increase
- (c) ☐ No change
- (d) ☐ Decrease
- (e) ☐ Decrease significantly

14. Please advise below your present fee structure.

- (1) ☐ For cases funded by private clients:
- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| | <u>% of cases in 2005</u> |
| (3) ☐ Time charge | _____ % |
| (4) ☐ Scale fee | _____ % |
| (5) ☐ Lump sum | _____ % |
| (6) ☐ Others, please specify: _____ | _____ % |
| Total | 100% |
- (2) ☐ No definite fee structure.

15. Please give below any views you may have on the balance between demand for and supply of legal services in Hong Kong.

———— End of Questionnaire ————